

The Heart

It works as a **pump to move the blood** around the body.

It has four chambers—two atria (upper chambers) and two ventricles (lower chambers).

Blood Vessels



Artery

It has the **thickest wall** of all three, allowing it to withstand the high pressure created by the heart.



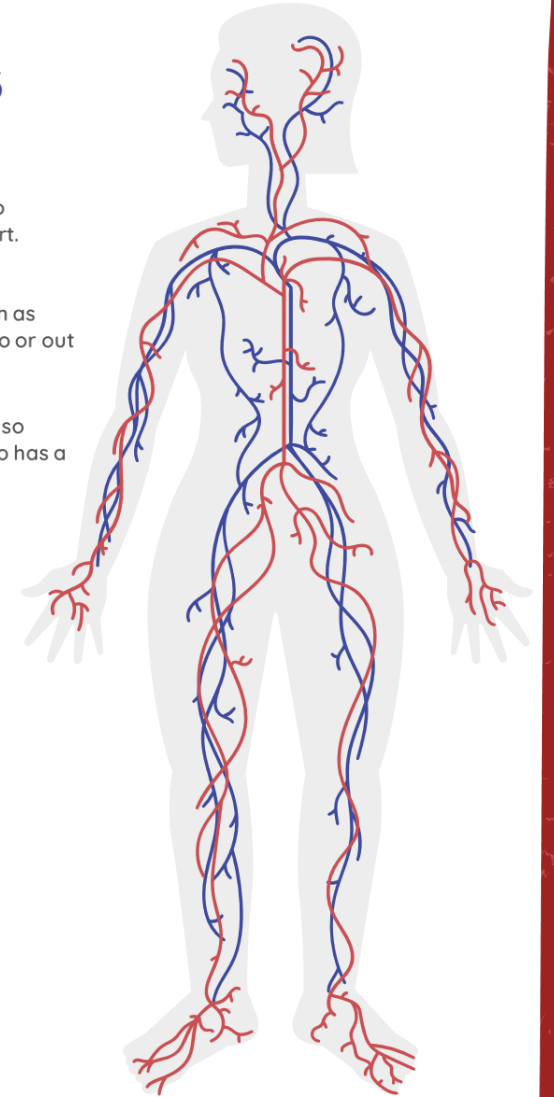
Capillary

It has the **thinnest wall** to allow substances such as oxygen and sugars to pass through its wall—into or out of the blood.



Vein

It is **less muscular and stretchy** than an artery, so blood moves through it with low pressure. It also has a special valve that helps blood go only one way.

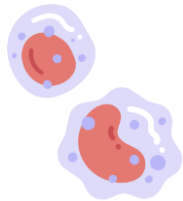


Blood



Red Blood Cells

carry oxygen, nutrients and wastes



White Blood Cells

fight diseases and protect the body from infection

Platelets

gather at the site of injury and help the clotting process



Plasma

straw-colored liquid where the other components float in

